

Guidance for Injection Well Owners Disposal of Waste Fluids from Motorized Vehicle Repair or Maintenance Operations at Existing Facilities

During normal vehicle repair and maintenance activities, vehicle fluids may drip or spill or otherwise enter floor drains and sinks in service areas. These fluids, which can introduce various toxic chemicals into sources of drinking water, may include engine oil, transmission fluid, power steering fluid, brake fluid, hydraulic fluid, antifreeze, chlorinated or non-chlorinated parts cleaning solvents and degreasers.

Effective April 5, 2000, federal Underground Injection Control (UIC) program regulations prohibited the discharge of any wastewater containing these fluids to any newly constructed floor drains or sinks that are connected to an onsite wastewater disposal system such as a septic system and drainfield or drywell. The owner or operator of an existing onsite wastewater disposal system that receives these types of wastes is being provided with several additional years to bring their facility into compliance. However, by January 1, 2007, all existing onsite wastewater systems that may receive these types of wastes must either be closed or converted.

As the owner or operator of a business that generates motorized vehicle fluids, what must you do?

First of all, identify the type of wastewater disposal system that the floor drains and sinks in the service area are connected to:

- If your plumbing system discharges directly to a municipal sanitary sewer, check with the operator of your local wastewater treatment system to see if your facility is subject to any local pretreatment requirements.
- If your plumbing system discharges to a holding tank, check with the Department of Natural Resources to make sure that the holding tank is approved for the collection of either industrial wastewater or a mixture of sanitary wastewater and industrial waste.
- If your plumbing system discharges to an injection well such as, a septic system and drainfield, a mound system or a drywell, your facility must initially comply with a new federal injection well reporting requirement and then select a new wastewater disposal option:

For the purpose of creating a statewide inventory of affected facilities, the owner or operator of an injection well is required to report the existence of their facility to the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program coordinator in the DNR's Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921.

If my facility discharges to an injection well, what are my wastewater disposal options?

EPA lists four options for bringing your facility into compliance:

1. Dry Shop - remove all floor drains and sinks from areas where service or repair work is performed. Use absorbent materials and a vacuum to collect spills and drips. Place all wastes into containers for off-site disposal following state guidelines and regulations.
2. Sanitary Sewer - connect your plumbing system to a sanitary sewer. Check with the local sewer authority regarding any pretreatment requirements.
3. Holding Tank - connect your plumbing system to an approved combined wastewater holding tank. You could also separate the floor drains and sinks in the service area from other plumbing and route service area wastewater to a DNR-approved industrial wastewater holding tank while other sanitary wastewater is routed to a Wisconsin Department of Commerce-approved wastewater holding tank.

4. Conversion - physically separate the sinks and floor drains in the service area from the areas where repair or maintenance activities take place and from those areas where the chemicals used in the repair or maintenance of motorized vehicles are stored. The facility would also need to obtain a wastewater discharge permit from the DNR and perform periodic monitoring of the wastewater to demonstrate continued compliance.